(c) The steps taken by the Government to step up the electricity generation capacity are as follows:-

(i) De-licensing of thermal generation and captive generation being freely permitted.

(ii) Structural reforms for State Electricity Boards.

(iii) Formation of Central and State Regulatory Commissions.

(iv) Formation of National Grid.

(v) Open access in Transmission and Distribution.

(vi) Power trading being recognized as a distinct activity.

(vii) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme.

(viii) Incentives to reduce T&D losses.

(ix) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of on-going generation projects.

(x) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW each under competitive bidding,

(xi) Harnessing surplus captive power into grid.

(xii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.

(xiii) Sensitizing the industry to the needs of increasing manufacturing capacity and widening the vendor base for main plant equipment and balance of plants, like coal handling plant, ash handling plant, water treatment plant etc. by organizing international conclave & regional workshops etc. Other areas like advance procurement of critical materials and tie up of necessary funds before construction are also being addressed.

Coal linkages for power plants in Bihar

996. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government has sent proposals for sanctioning coal linkage to set up power plants in the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposals are pending in the Ministry for quite some time and Government has not initiated any positive step; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning the required coal linkage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The applications for long term coal linkage to four Thermal Power Plants proposed to be set up in Bihar, have been received from State Government of Bihar. The long term coal linkages to these projects have already been recommended by this Ministry to the Ministry of Coal.

(c) It has not been possible so far to provide long term coal linkages for these projects due to the relatively large number of applications for Coal linkages received in the recent past.

Compulsory purchase of wind power by industries

997. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) has issued regulations to encourage compulsory procurement of 10 per cent of their consumption of electricity from wind power by Distribution Licensee;

(b) whether many Commissions now propose to make it compulsory to procure wind power for individual industries having Captive Power Plants;

(c) whether such policy of procurement of wind power by industries having Captive Power Plants can be made compulsory; and

(d) if so, whether SERC or Government would compensate these industries for loss of investment and purchase of costly wind power and whether compulsory purchase would discourage industries to set up Captive Power Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides in Section 86(1) that the State Commission shall promote cogeneration and generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy by providing suitable measures for connectivity with the grid and sale of electricity to any person, and also specify, for purchase of electricity from such sources, a percentage of the total consumption of electricity in the area of a distribution licensee.

The National Electricity Policy also stresses the urgent need to promote generation of electricity from non-conventional sources of energy and co-generation.

As required under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the National Electricity Policy, most of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have specified the percentage of electricity to be procured by State Utilities from the non-conventional energy sources including Wind. According to the Forum of Regulators (FOR) the percentage of such procurements varies from 1 per cent to 20 per cent, details of which is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued separate Regulations to specify renewable energy obligations applicable to the distribution licensee including deemed licensee, open access consumer and the captive power plant of installed capacity of 1MW and above.

The FOR has informed that as per information available with them, the SERCs in Maharashtra has also specified the minimum percentage of procurement of power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources for open access and captive consumers.